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MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT



Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
Year 1948

C. T. DARWENT,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:—

The Chairman (Mr. W. G. Davis, J.P.), The Vice-Chairman (Mr. W. J. Burman) and the full Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:—

Medical Officer of Health—

C. T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health, Downham Market Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Downham Rural District Council.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—J. T. DEWHURST, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—B. V. BRAYBROOK, C.R.S.I.,
A.M.S.E.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF MARSHLAND

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ended the 31st December, 1948. The report is drawn up on the lines suggested in the various circulars issued by the Ministry of Health.

The vital statistics may be regarded as satisfactory.

The number of births is decreased by 52 as compared with the previous year—but this is compensated for by a fewer number of deaths (75) for the same period. Apart from a slight increase in the number of cases of measles notified during the year—the incidence of zymotic diseases remains at a low level.

The coming into force of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with effect from the 5th July, 1948, has resulted in certain functions, for example Diphtheria Immunisations, being transferred to the Norfolk County Council.

To implement the various sections of the Health Service Act, a County Council Local Health Office has been established at Downham Market to cover the areas of Downham R.D., Downham U.D., and Marshland R.D., and a County Local Health Sub-Committee has been formed, which includes members from each of the District Councils.

In accordance with the terms of Ministry of Health circular No. 140/48 copies of notifications of infectious diseases are forwarded by the District Council to the Local Health Office, and as a result the fees for notifications payable to the General Practitioners by the District Councils are re-imbursed by the County Council.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance afforded me by the executive officers of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

C. T. DARWENT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS—1948.

AREA (acres)	...	...	...	56,562
POPULATION, 1931 (Census)	...	...	...	15,350
,, 1948 (Estimated)	...	...	...	16,370
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1948	...	...	...	4852
Rateable value of Rural District 1948	...	...	...	£39,545
Product of 1d. Rate, 1948	...	...	...	£165 : 0 : 0

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate		E. & W.	County
				1947	1948		
Legitimate	302	150	152				
Illegitimate	22	7	15				
Totals	324	157	167	23.02	19.7	17.9	17.41

STILLBIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate		E. & W.	County
				1947	1948		
Legitimate	5	1	4				
Illegitimate	—	—	—				
Totals	5	1	4	0.42	0.30		

DEATHS (all causes)	Total	Male	Female	Rate		E. & W.	County
				1947	1948		
	129	63	66	12.4	7.8	10.8	11.2

DEATHS (from Puerperal Causes).

Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	...	...	...	..	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY—rate per 1,000 live Births.

	Total	1948	E. & W.	County
Legitimate	6	18.5		
Illegitimate	—	—		
Totals	6	18.5	34	31.61

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	26
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	Nil

Section A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

AREA (acres) 56,562

POPULATION. The estimated mid-year population 16,370.

DEATHS. The total number of Deaths assigned to the District by the Registrar General, after adjustment for inward and outward transfers is 129 as compared with 204 for 1947. The recorded death rate is 7.8 as compared with 12.4 for 1947.

BIRTH RATE. The number of live births assigned to the District is 324 as compared with 376 for 1947. The number of registered births is equivalent to 19.7 per 1,000 of the population.

STILLBIRTHS. The number of stillbirths registered is 5 compared with 7 for 1947.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. NIL.

INFANT MORTALITY. Six (6 legitimate and Nil illegitimate) infants under 1 year of age died during 1948 as compared with 23 in 1947. This is very satisfactory.

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births :

Marshland Rural District	18.5
England and Wales	34
Administrative County	31.61

NEONATAL MORTALITY. Infants who died within 28 days of independent existence are classified as Neonatal deaths and as such are included in the Infant Mortality rate.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The laboratory work associated with the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases and the bacteriological examination of water supplies is carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Norwich.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

In accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria (outside London) Order 1910, a supply of Antitoxin was available free of charge to Medical Practitioners for use in the district, by applying direct to the Health Department, Rural District Council Offices, Wisbech.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Marshland Rural District is a constituent Authority of the Wisbech Borough, Wisbech and Marshland Rural District Councils' Joint Ambulance Committee, which has two Ambulances, one for infectious diseases and one for ordinary cases.

HOSPITALS.

North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.

Accommodation for Infectious Disease cases—Wisbech Isolation Hospital, Wisbech.

DAY NURSERY.

This is situated at Emneth and is administered by the County Education Authority.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are two centres available for residents in the district—one at Outwell where two sessions are held monthly, on the first and third Mondays in each month at 2 p.m., and one at Terrington St. Clement with a session at 2 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is served with piped water supply to the villages by two Schemes. The Northern area including the villages of Clenchwarton, Terrington St. Clement, Tilney All Saints, Walpole St. Andrew and part Walpole St. Peter is served by the Council's mains from a supply afforded by the King's Lynn Borough Council. The villages of Upwell, Outwell, Emneth, Walsoken, West Walton, Marshland St. James, Tilney St. Lawrence and part of Walpole St. Peter are served by mains controlled by the Wisbech Water Works Co. Where no piped supply is available in the more isolated parts of Parishes, the only supply is rainwater collected from roofs. The number of shallow wells in the district is negligible.

During the year the Minister of Health authorised the work of laying extensions to water mains in the parishes of Clenchwarton, Terrington St. Clement, Walpole St. Andrew, Walpole St. Peter and part of the district known as Central Wingland.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No public sewers exist. Where an adequate water supply is available many conversions of vaults and pail closets to water closets have occurred with disposal by cesspools and septic tanks. Privy vaults are generally in use by the cottage properties and agricultural dwellings. Cesspools and Privy vaults are emptied by Private Contract. There is no service available to residents for Night Soil Emptying.

RIVER POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTS.

The whole district is covered and controlled by the two Catchment Boards of the Nene and Ouse.

DISINFECTION & DISINFESTATION—BEDDING, ETC.

No facilities are available for the disinfection and disinfestation of clothing and bedding, etc. In exceptionally bad cases, complete destruction would be recommended.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No cases have been reported or found during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

No applications were received and no licences issued by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Council do not employ the services of a Rat Catcher. Cases of infestation, when found or reported, are referred to the County of Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee who arrange for the necessary disinfestation.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Dry refuse is collected by the Council fortnightly and all houses except those in isolated places, where disposal can be carried out privately, are served. The number of collections made during the year is estimated to be 80,670.

Roads and streets are controlled by the Norfolk County Council and road cleansing is therefore carried out by the County Council staff.

SEASONAL WORKERS.

There are three Agricultural Holiday Camps in the district controlled by the County Agricultural Executive Committee and periodical inspections have been made of these camps during the open season.

There are also privately owned fruit pickers' bunks in the district and these have been periodically inspected and controlled by Byelaws made by the Council. Movable dwellings are also controlled on privately owned land under the Public Health Act, 1936, and are moved within the prescribed period.

Section D—HOUSING

During 1948 new Council Housing was completed and occupied in the following parishes:

STANDARD BRICK HOUSES—

Clenchwarton ...	...	6
Walpole St. Peter ...	...	8
Upwell ...	...	13

AIREY CONCRETE HOUSES—

Terrington St. Clement	16
Walpole St. Peter ...	6
Walsoken ...	12

Total 61
=

Development of estates for permanent houses was commenced in the following parishes:—

Emneth, Outwell, Tilney St. Lawrence, Tilney All Saints and West Walton.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Two Licences were granted under the Civil Building Regulations for the erection of dwellings by Private Enterprise and one consent was received from the Ministry of Health for dwellings to be erected in conjunction with agricultural holdings under the Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1946. Twelve dwellings were completed and occupied.

REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES.

The Council still held 13 properties at the close of the year which were requisitioned during the National Emergency. No other dwellings were requisitioned during the year.

REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Owing to restrictions in building operations few major improvements were carried out. In 22 cases privy vaults and pail closets were converted to W.C.'s with cesspools or septic tanks. 279 cases of essential repairs were recommended for licences and the work carried out.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER 1926.

All dairies and cowsheds were periodically inspected during the year and in three cases requests were made for improvements, all of which were satisfactorily completed.

MILK SAMPLING.

All sampling is carried out by the County Health Department.

FOOD PREMISES.

Ten Bakehouses registered in the district were inspected at 6 monthly intervals.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

All meat is slaughtered at Central Abbatoirs at King's Lynn and Wisbech.

Four investigations were made into cases of alleged unsound food and in all cases it was surrendered voluntarily and condemned, as follows :

Beef, Imported	90 lbs.
Corned Beef	2 tins
Tinned Fruit	2 tins
Bacon	9 lbs.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

SMALL POX.

No cases were notified.

SCARLET FEVER.

Twenty-five Cases were notified during the year as compared with 22 in 1947. Eighteen Cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital at Wisbech. No deaths were assigned to this disease. In all cases dwellings were disinfected.

DIPHTHERIA.

It is gratifying to report that **no** cases were reported during 1947.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

In order that the good record of the District for freedom from Diphtheria is maintained, it is most essential that there is no flagging off in the effort by the medical profession and the willing co-operation of all parents to secure that all children of the district be immunised against the disease.

Immunisation is carried out chiefly by the Medical practitioners of the District, either at the home, the surgery or at the schools.

The following table shows the estimated number of children immunised during 1948.

Number Immunised since the inception of the Scheme and up to 31st December, 1948.

Child population {	0 - 4 years	5 to 14 years
3854	1454	2400

Total immunised 2724 = 70.8%.

Under the following age groups :—

Under 1	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 to 9 yrs.	10 to 14 yrs.
14	177	168	151	177	976	1061

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

No cases were notified during the year.

PRIMARY PNEUMONIA.

Fourteen Cases were notified as against 10 in 1947. There were 2 deaths. One was an infant under 1 year.

MEASLES.

The measles epidemic, which has been widespread throughout the country as a whole, caused 213 cases to be notified as against 188 cases in 1947. The case distribution was fairly evenly spread over the whole district. There were no deaths assigned this disease.

ERYSIPELAS.

Three Cases were notified during the year.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Thirty-two Cases were notified as against 53 cases in 1947. There were no deaths from this disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table indicates the incidence of Tuberculosis in the District.

1948	Tuberculosis all forms			Rate per 1000 population M.R.D.	County rate per 1000 of population
	Male	Female	Total		
	12	9	21	1.2	0.73

Section D.
STATISTICAL TABLES—Table 1
Causes of Death 1948

Cause of Death					Male	Female	Total
1.	Typhoid and Para Typhoid fevers	...	...	...	—	—	— (N.C.)
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	—	—	— (N.C.)
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	—	—	— (N.C.)
4.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—	— (N.C.)
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	— (N.C.)
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	4	—	4 (+)
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—	(—)
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	— (N.C.)
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	(—)
10.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	— (N.C.)
11.	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	— (N.C.)
12.	Acute infective-encephalitis	...	...	...	—	1	1 (+)
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (male)	...	...	...	1	—	1 (+)
	of uterus (female)	...	...	...	—	—	— (—)
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	5	—	5 (—)
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	—	2	2 (—)
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	8	10	18 (—)
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	1	2 (—)
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	7	8	15 (—)
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	18	23	41 (—)
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	2	5	7 (+)
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	3	7 (+)
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	—	2	2 (—)
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	—	1	1 (—)
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	1	—	1 (—)
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	—	—	— (—)
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—	— (—)
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	1	2	3 (+)
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	2	1	3 (—)
29.	Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	...	...	...	—	—	— (—)
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	—	—	— (—)
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	1	1	2 (N.C.)
32.	Congenital malformations, birth injury and infantile diseases	...	...	...	2	2	4 (—)
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	—	1 (—)
34.	Road Traffic accidents	...	...	...	1	—	1 (—)
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	1	—	1 (—)
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	3	4	7 (—)
NOTE : (—) denotes decrease on 1947 figures.					63	66	129

(+) denotes increase on 1947 figures.
N.C. No change.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR—1948

Table 2

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGES IN WEEKS.					Total
	— 1	— 2	— 3	— 4	5—52	
1. Congenital malformations ...	3	1	—	—	—	4
2. Disease of early infancy:						
Congenital debility and icterus	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth	1	—	—	—	1	2
Injury at birth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	1	1
4. Diseases of digestive system ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diseases of nervous system ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Tubercular diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Infectious diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Overlaying	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Other violence	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. All other causes... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	1	—	—	2	7

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS—1948—Table 3

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
— 1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	3	1	2	1	—	—	—
—25	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
—35	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
—45	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
and over	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	9	4	3	5	4	Nil	Nil	Nil

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Table 4

Notification in Age Groups

DISEASE	AGES												Total	Remove to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—20	—35	—45	—65 & over			
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	3	2	2	15	2	—	1	—	—	—	25	18	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles... ..	10	11	29	28	24	108	3	—	—	—	—	—	213	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	2	3	1	2	6	17	—	—	1	—	—	—	32	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	14	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Infective Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	12	14	34	32	32	143	6	4	6	2	5	2	292	18	2

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES— 1948.—Table 5

(other than Tuberculosis).

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet Fever ...			1	2	1	1	7	4	3	1	4	1	25
Measles ...	29	4		28	31	30	9	2	20	25	13	22	213
Whooping Cough ...		4	3	7	16	1			1				32
Pneumonia ...			4	2	1	1	1			3	1	1	14
Erysipelas ...			2								1		3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...													
Enteric Fever ...			1										1
Infective Jaundice ...							1		1		1		3
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1												1
Acute Polio-Myelitis ...													
TOTALS	30	8	11	39	49	33	18	6	25	29	20	24	292

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Inspections made	...	...	...	28
Number of rooms disinfected	..	...		22

NUISANCES.

Inspections made	...	...	...	112
Notices served	...	...	...	21
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	21

NEW BUILDINGS.

Inspections made	...	...	...	71
Number of new dwellings completed during the year	12

SCHOOLS.

Inspections made	24
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WATER SUPPLY.

Inspections made	225
New connections (domestic)		109
New connections (trade)		21

KNACKERS YARDS.

Licences granted	1
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FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Inspections made	44
Number of written notices		1
Prosecutions	...	...	..	—

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number registered	...	..	...	41
Number of inspections	...	...	...	60
Number on which improvements were requested and carried out	...	...		3

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1948.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total Number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Act 1936)	92
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	106
(2)		Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
		Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	24

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

		Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by local authority or their officers	59
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	Proceedings under appropriate sections of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
	(1)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
	(2)	Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :	
		(a) by owners	Nil
		(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
	(1)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
	(2)	Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
		(a) by owners	Nil
		(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
	(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
	(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

